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Greenfield Arson Set by Four Teens

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, Greenfield Fire Chief Mark H. Cogswell and Greenfield Police Chief David F. Guilbault credited their fire investigation team with solving last night's arson fire in a Laurel Street Warehouse. Four teenagers, three boys and one girl, ages 14-15, will be summonsed into Greenfield Juvenile Court and charged with setting the fire in the abandoned warehouse on Sunday, July 8, 2007.

Coan said, "Fires, especially intentionally set fires, in abandoned buildings are extremely dangerous for firefighters. A firefighter is 6 times more likely to be injured fighting a vacant building fire than at a building fire in general. Two firefighters were injured fighting this fire, and one need only look back to the Worcester Cold Storage Warehouse fire in 1999 to see how dangerous they can be."

Chief Cogswell said, "First, I want to acknowledge the Greenfield and mutual aid firefighters for their good work in extinguishing the fire, and second, the investigative team who worked throughout the night to solve this case in less than 24 hours."

Investigators believe the fire started in the office area of the now abandoned warehouse. The bank is currently in the process of foreclosing on the property.

The fire is being jointly investigated by members of the Greenfield Fire Department, Greenfield Police Department and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

In 2005, 374 vacant building fires were reported to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) causing one civilian death, seven civilian injuries, 76 firefighter injuries and an estimated \$59.2 million in damages.